from the court-yard, the lowest apartment, called the dungeon, is gained. It is 17 feet 4 inches long, and 13 feet 6 inches wide, groined in two bays. The ribs are deep, and have a plain chamfer. On the south side, an opening, one-third the width of the room, admits the light from a deeply splayed window, the opening of which is narrowed to the width of six inches towards the outside of the wall. On the north side, and at some height from the floor is a smaller window, admitting light from the courtyard.

Emerging from the dungeon and on a level with the court-yard, the interior is divided into a principal apartment about 19 feet 6 inches by 14 feet 6 inches, and communicating with two smaller chambers. The groining, as below, is simple early pointed, the rib deep and chamfered or slightly hollowed, the door-jambs plain chamfer with deep rebate. The principal windows are deeply splayed, the jamb set forwards towards the external wall, the opening narrow and ogee-headed, with a single transom, and the external jamb a double splay and fillet. The smaller openings to turret stair, &c., are slit lights, with square-headed and chamfered jambs. The two floors above are similarly arranged, the lower of the two hung with some very good tapestry. From the third floor are communications with the south and eastern ramparts; and above this floor access is gained to the first outer platform of the tower. Here the deeply-projecting battlements are supported on corbels, between which are open spaces, to allow of missiles being thrown down on the assailants below. Above this arises the upper tower, having two apartments, floored over at the height of 6½ feet, and a single heptagonal chamber above, lighted by large square openings in the massive walls, and having a groined roof. Above this chamber is the upper platform of the tower, commanding an extensive view in every direction, having on its south-west side another platform ascended by steps.

Proceeding westward from this tower, we descend into the basement of the castle, and passing by the more modern portion erected under the library, bed-room, &c., the old part of the castle is entered. This extends under the great hall, ante-room, cedar, and compass rooms, armoury passage, and chapel, and is groined throughout, the principal portion being supported by dwarf pillars of the same early character as the groining,—about the time of Richard II.

In the ale cellar is a two-light window, indicative of the character of the building. In the south-west angle of the building a small turret stair gives a further descent of seven or eight feet, at which level it is now stopped up, but in all probability at a lower depth it afforded egress from this part of the castle.

The ancient external features of the castle are much obscured on the south, or river side, by the insertion of numerous windows of late date, and on the north side by the dining-room and wing buildings, erected for the late Earl of Warwick; but there are sufficient indications to warrant the date which I have assigned to the structure, the chapel being, perhaps, somewhat later in period. Internally the whole has been modernised to the date of the last century, with the exception of the great hall, mentioned before.

By a passage, said to be formed in the thickness of the north wall, and called the Armoury Passage, the visitor is conducted to a tower, having four angular turrets, and the archway in the basement affording egress to the park at the foot of Ethelfleda's Mount: this tower has also been much modernised.

Ethelfleda's Mount, or Keep, appears to have been surrounded by an embattled wall; and Hollar's map, attached to Dugdale, shews a tower at the north-west angle, which at present exists, and has been ascended by an external stair, renewed from time to time. There is one single chamber, with an ascent to the summit. Another tower has been added in modern times, but according tolerably well with the character of the whole. From this north-west angle a narrow flight of steps extends towards the Bear Tower, but the rampart is terminated abruptly at a short distance, i.e., at the break, where the curtain wall is thrown across.

The summit of the mound presents an area of about twenty yards in diameter, and in the centre stood a fine fir tree, evidently of some age in Dugdale's time. It is said that buildings exist beneath this area, but I am not aware of any researches having been made, and no indications are at present visible. The area is certainly not *too large* for a Norman keep circular in form, but it is scarcely credible that its walls should be buried by a surrounding mound of earth. A foot below the level of the windows of the north-west tower a series of round holes occur, which were most probably made for self-defence during the siege in 1643. From this mound there is an extremely fine view of the dormitory. In Canaletti's time it was formally planted with clipped firs, but since then it has been clothed with shrubs and fine trees by the late earl, and now presents a beautiful and luxuriant appearance. The two octangular towers, called the Clarence and Bear towers, are connected by a flank wall, and the court-yard was here approached by a draw-bridge, west of which the moat runs out to the level of the ground at the foot of the mound. These towers consist each of a single chamber, with a small staircase at the side, affording access to a rampart, which runs round the walls. Over the towers is a spacious platform, ascended by steps. A subterraneous passage is said to communicate with the western tower; and from the eastern rampart a considerable flight of steps affords a communication with the third story of Guy's Tower. This tower, built by Thomas Beauchamp, in 1393, at a cost of 395*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, is uniform in style throughout. The ogee-headed windows are inserted in a square, externally chamfered, thus differing from the windows of Cæsar's Tower, which have the ogee head repeated on the external moulding.*

* All the details are given in "Pugin's Specimens."

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE Dartmoor granite is about to be quarried, it is said, by a body of convicts, to be domiciled at the Prince's Town prisons.——The widening of the Old bridge, Bath, long contemplated, is about to be commenced.——The Wesleyan Collegiate Institution, recently erected at Taunton, has been opened. The building is in the domestic Gothic style, with a frontage of hewn stone 240 feet long, and a central tower. There are also a terrace, swimming bath, playground, lodge, and entrance gates, &c., and the whole establishment is well supplied with water from the tower.——A site for the new post-office, Hereford, has been fixed on near the cathedral close.——A new town-hall for Merthyr Tydvil is to be built, it is alleged, by the new member, Sir John Guest, as a present to his constituents.——The church of Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcester, was lately re-opened, on the completion of its restoration, from designs by Mr. Cranston, of Oxford, architect. Its original character had been much effaced since the fourteenth or fifteenth century, when it was probably built. The lost proportions have been restored, and unsightly superfoetations removed. A new north aisle has been added, and the whole of the rest of it, in short, raised from its foundations. The roofing and other woodwork is of oak, and the pewing plain, with stalls in the chancel. The pulpit is of stone. Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle, has filled the centre of the east window with painted glass. Lord Ward has given 500*l.* towards the expense of the restorations.——A new workhouse is contemplated for the Shepton-Mallet union at a cost of about 20,000*l.*——From experiments tried at Salford in watering and cleansing the streets with hose, applied directly to the water mains, and jets with tinned plates placed obliquely before the nozzle to spread the rounded stream into a sheet, it appears that a surface of 1,800 square yards can be sufficiently watered in four minutes, and that a surface of 240 square yards can be very efficiently scoured in three minutes. The jet, however, in the latter case, was found to wash away the gravel rather injuriously from between the stones. As a useful adjunct to the sweeping machine, however, its value has been sufficiently tested; and for foot pavements, and perhaps, too, for house-fronts and even — gently applied—for windows also, it will be equally useful. Manchester is thus likely to perfect those means of cleansing streets which it also originated in the sweeping machine. The temporary damp produced in removing so inveterate and continued a source of injurious damp as mud is, might well be submitted to, even independently of its refreshing coolness in the dry heat of summer. Mr. Edwin Chadwick and the secretary of the Health of Towns' Association were present in course of these experiments.——In the Leeds council the other day, on consideration of what is called "the Architects' Bill," for building the new jail, it was proposed to grant to the contractors, Messrs. Perkin and Backhouse, a sum of 150*l.*, in addition to the amount of their estimate, 552*l.*, and on account of the 'very satisfactory manner' in which their work had been done, and the 'much longer period' during which they had been called upon to continue their services than what was originally contemplated. The town clerk, however, read a letter from their solicitor, claiming a sum of 500*l.* over and above the amount of their contract, on account of "extra professional duties, arising from alterations in the original plans and additions," the work having thus, it was alleged, extended a year beyond the period originally calculated on. The council were thus, of course, taken a little aback in the effectuation of their generous intention, and some of the members then rebelled against the idea of giving them even "one penny more than by law they were entitled to," although it was observed "that if right in their claim, they had not thrown away that right by employing a solicitor," and that for alterations made in the original estimate they certainly were entitled to remuneration. One item of 27*l.* was admitted to be exigible, but no other; and the subject was ultimately referred back to the Gaol Committee, with power to pay such extra sum as they might consider reasonable for work so 'satisfactorily' done.——Messrs. Craven and Sons, the contractors for the construction of the Sunderland docks, have commenced their work.——The usual authorities in the Scotch iron trade, in quoting pig at 48*s.* per ton, free on board, now speak of a further "decline of full 2*s.* having taken place since Monday last [week], *notwithstanding the continuation of the strike* amongst the miners and colliers, and the stoppage of blast furnaces in the Monkland districts;" and one of the chief authorities at Birmingham seems to find it necessary, or advisable, in discussing the prospects of the trade in general, to endeavour to suppress something like 'alarm' by assurances that such alarm is not shared in by him at least.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

THE 'extraordinary rise' of charges on the Eastern Counties line has already begun to work out its own cure, by giving rise to the re-establishment of coaches on the road between London and Cambridge, and to the increase of cheap steamers between London and Yarmouth: so that to that salutary awe which the omnibus system already exercises over the rising charges on this line of rail, where they happen to compete, will soon be added a still more general, and, in all probability, still more effectual check to its *rising* ambition.——The East Anglian line was opened from Lynn to Swaffham on Tuesday week. The works were commenced about two years and a half since, and finished last year to Narborough. In the second contract to Swaffham, there is still much to do in widening cuttings for a double line. The engineer in chief of this line is Mr. Valentine, and the resident engineer, Mr. Hall. The contractor from Lynn to Narborough was Mr. J. Walker. Messrs. Frost, Fly, and Mathewson were the contractors from Narborough to Swaffham, a hilly district of chalk and flints, with heavy cuttings and embankments, and large bridges. Middleton, East Winch, and Pentney stations are built of Carr stone. The Narborough station is ten miles from Lynn. Not far from it the line crosses the Narby, a large timber bridge, with five openings of 30 feet each. One of the chalk embankments here is 1¼ miles long and 20 feet high. Over the road to Narborough there is a large girder bridge; girders 25 feet span. Towards Swaffham the line is made up of alternate cuttings and embankments. Over the last cutting there is a large brick bridge of three arches, 30 feet span each, 11 feet spring, and 16 feet in height, with arches

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